

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 03921 101635Z

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 INT-05

INRE-00 SSO-00 /072 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6259

UNCLAS ROME 3921

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, IT

SUBJECT: SECRETARY SIMON VISIT - MEDIA REACTION

1. NO NEWSPAPER WEDNESDAY DUE PRINTERS STRIKE. RAI (TV) CARRIED TWO MINUTE EXCERPT SECRETARY'S SPECIAL INTERVIEW YESTERDAY ON 2000 CHANNEL ONE NEWS, ITALY'S PRIME TIME SLOT. ANNOUNCER ADDED DETAILS SECRETARY'S TUESDAY SCHEDULE WITH DETAILED COVERAGE MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER. 2030 RAI TV NEWS (SECOND CHANNEL) CARRIED COMPLETE TEN-MINUTE VERSION SIMON INTERVIEW, AND 2300 NEWS REPEATED EXCERPT. EXCERPT ALSO CARRIED TV MONTECARLO WITH LENGTHY ANALYSIS BY IL GIORNALE ECONOMIC EDITOR CESARE ZAPPULLI. DETAILS OF DAY'S SCHEDULE ALSO CARRIED ALL RADIO NEWS BROADCASTS.

2. WEDNESDAY SECRETARY GAVE ONE HOUR EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW ALFREDO RECANATESI, IL SOLE-24 ORE, ITALY'S LEADING ECONOMIC NEWSPAPER, FOLLOWED BY INFORMAL SESSION 16 AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS, AND FULL PRESS CONFERENCE WITH 132 IN ATTENDANCE. WILL FOLLOW WITH ASSESSMENT OF REACTION AND EXTENT OF COVERAGE, BUT PRELIMINARY INDICATION IS THAT VISIT ATTRACTED EXTRAORDINARY AND LARGELY FAVORABLE ATTENTION.VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME03921
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760090-1048
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760375/aaaacofk.tel
Line Count: 51
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION TRSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 AUG 2004 by meiwc>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY SIMON VISIT - MEDIA REACTION
TAGS: SOPN, IT, (SIMON, WILLIAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006